This is a semester-long immersion into the middle canticle of Dante's Divine Comedy. Purgatory is the only one of the three realms of Dante's afterlife that is located above ground, on the earth, subject to the passage of time. Literally upside-down, it is in many ways a new place, shaped by contemporary preoccupations with time and money as well as female and lay participation in religiosity, and its concerns are emphatically earthly: reason, politics, justice, ethics, and art. Knowledge of Italian is helpful, but not required as all readings will be available in translation. Interest in connecting the Purgatorio to its intellectual, cultural, and political roots, as well as to those of its aftermath, in whatever cultural tradition, will be strongly encouraged.